

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00

CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02

STR-05 TRSE-00 FRB-01 OMB-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8959

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

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AMEMBASSY RABAT

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AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

DEPT PASS COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, ETRD, EPAP, ECEM, XF, TS, EC

SUBJ: CONCLUSION OF SECOND CONFERENCE OF ARAB MINISTERS OF
INDUSTRY: FOCUS ON EC TRADE AND TEXTILES

1. (BEGIN SUMMARY) ARAB MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY ON NOVEMBER 10 CONCLUDED THREE-DAY MEETING IN TUNIS WITH SPECIAL DECLARATION CALLING FOR REMOVAL OF EC RESTRICTIONS ON TEXTILES AS INCONSISTENT WITH SPIRIT OF EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE. CONFERENCE ALSO AGREED TO ASK EC TO LIMIT EXPANSION OF INDUSTRIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO ARABS SUCH AS OIL REFINING, PETRO-CHEMICALS, FERTILIZERS, AND STEEL. DATE FOR FIFTH ARAB CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (IN ALGIERS) WAS POSTPONED FROM NOVEMBER 1978 TO APRIL 1979 TO ALLOW FOR ADEQUATE PREPARATION. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THAT CONFERENCE INCLUDE CREATION AND STRENGTHENING OF VARIOUS ARAB INDUSTRIAL ENTITIES. TUNIS MEETING ALSO ENDORSED FURTHER ARAB LEAGUE EFFORTS TO HELP REBUILD LEBANESE INDUSTRY (END SUMMARY).

2. JOINT DECLARATION OF INDUSTRY MINISTERS ON TEXTILES APPARENTLY WAS INSPIRED BY TUNISIANS, MOROCCANS AND EGYPTIANS. PROPOSAL MADE BY DIRECTOR GENERAL AYED AZZABI OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER OF THE ARAB STATES (IDCAS) ALSO WAS SUPPORTED BY SAUDI ARABIA AND BAHRAIN. COMMUNIQUE NOTED THAT CONFERENCE HAD FOUND "PROTECTIONIST MEASURES TAKEN BY EC IN RESPECT TO CERTAIN ARAB TEXTILE EXPORTING COUNTRIES HAVE HAD SERIOUSLY DAMAGING EFFECTS ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANS OF THESE COUNTRIES.
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MINISTERS NOTED THESE MEASURES WERE TAKEN AT TIME WHEN COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN EC AND ARAB WORLD HAD RECENTLY QUADRUPLLED, MAKING ARAB COUNTRIES THE EC'S LEADING CLIENT, AND AT MOMENT WHEN PROSPECTS FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ARAB AND EUROPEAN GROUPS APPEARED TO BE OPENING UP VIA EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE... MINISTERS DECLARED THESE EC MEASURES CONTRADICTED SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED WITH EC AND THREATENED CLIMATE OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE. THEY SUGGESTED THAT PROTECTIONIST MEASURES OF THIS SORT COULD LEAD TO MEASURES OF REPRISAL WHICH WOULD PREJUDICE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE BETWEEN ARAB AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THEREFORE, ARAB MINISTERS INSISTED UPON NECESSITY OF ELIMINATING THESE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES, BEING CONVINCED THAT THIS WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH PARTIES."

3. IN FURTHER RESPECT TO EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, INDUSTRY MINISTERS AGREED TO CALL UPON EUROPEANS TO LIMIT EXPANSION IN INDUSTRIAL SECTORS THAT ARE ACCORDED PRIORITY BY ARABS--NOTABLY PETROLEUM REFINING, PETRO-CHEMICALS, FERTILIZER AND STEEL--THUS PERMITTING ARAB EXPORTS TO HELP SUPPLY REQUIREMENTS OF EC MARKET, TO OPEN EUROPEAN MARKETS TO ARAB INDUSTRIAL EXPORTS AND TO FACILITATE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.

4. IN FURTHER RESPECT TO CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS, ARAB MINISTERS CALLED FOR STUDIES BY IDCAS OF VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES INCLUDING: A DATA BANK AND DOCUMENTATION CENTER, A CENTER FOR TECHNICAL TRAINING, AND JOINT INDUSTRIAL AND SERVICE COMPANIES. IN RESPECT TO MARKETING, THE MINISTERS RECOMMENDED PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS BY EXPORTING FIRMS, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ARAB FERTILIZER UNION, ON MATTERS SUCH AS SUPPLY AND DEMAND. MINISTERS ALSO CALLED FOR MORE FOCUS IN PLANNING ON ARAB MARKETS FOR FERTILIZER AND ON AGRICULTURAL POLICIES ENCOURAGING ITS GREATER USE.

5. FURTHER TO TEXTILES, MINISTERS FORMALLY ASKED THAT IDCAS STUDY THE CREATION OF JOINT ARAB ENTERPRISE TO MANUFACTURE TEXTILE (SPINNING AND WEAVING) MACHINERY. TUNISIAN SEC GEN OF INDUSTRY ZRIBI ALSO CALLED FOR COORDINATED ARAB POSITIONS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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GATT NEGOTIATIONS ON EXTENSION OF MULTIFIBER AGREEMENT, FOR MORE INTER-ARAB TRADE IN TEXTILES, AND FOR POSSIBLE JOINT ARAB ENTERPRISE IN SYNTHETIC FIBERS.

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INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
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6. UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE SAUDI DELEGATION, MINISTERS SUPPORTED MOVES TO STRENGTHEN IDCAS, INCLUDING ITS COORDINATING ROLE WITH VARIOUS SPECIALIZED ARAB INDUSTRIAL GROUPINGS, AND RECOMMENDED TO NEXT (FEBRUARY 1978) SESSION OF ARAB ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL THAT IDCAS BE TRANSFORMED INTO A SPECIALIZED AGENCY.

7. FOLLOWING PRESENTATION BY LEBANESE REPRESENTATIVE AND REPORT ON VISIT OF IDCAS EXPERTS TO LEBANON, MINISTERS ENDORSED A BAHRAIN RESOLUTION ASKING THAT ARAB ECONOMIC COUNCIL ADOPT MEASURES TO AID IN INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF LEBANON.

8. IN PUBLIC SESSION NOVEMBER 8 AT OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE, TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA, ECONOMY MINISTER LASRAM, AND ARAB LEAGUE ASSISTANT SEC GEN ABDELHASSENZALZALA ALL CALLED FOR COORDINATING AN ECONOMIC STRATEGY OF COMPLEMENTATION IN ARAB INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN ORDER TO AVOID WASTEFUL COMPETITION WITH EACH OTHER. IDCAS SEC GEN AZZABI VOICED PARTICIPANTS' CONSCIOUSNESS OF LONG WAY ARAB COUNTRIES HAVE TO GO IN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FROM PRESENT BASE OF APPROXIMATELY 0.5 PERCENT OF WORLD INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT (WITH INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS MAKING UP ONLY 15 PERCENT OF ARAB EXPORTS AS COMPARED TO 85 PERCENT

OF THEIR IMPORTS).

9. CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN WAS TUNISIAN MINISTER OF NATIONAL
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ECONOMY ABDELAZIZ LASRAM, VICE-CHAIRMAN WAS
IRAQI MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND MINES, NAJAH MOHAMED KHELIL,
SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN WAS ALGERIAN MINISTER OF INDUSTRY MOHAMED
YACINI AND RAPPORTEUR WAS IDCAS PRESIDENT AZZABI. DELEGATIONS
INCLUDED VIRTUALLY ALL ARAB LEAGUE STATES AND PLO. ALSO
ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN CONFERENCE WAS UNIDO DIRECTOR
GENERAL ABDERRAHMAN KHAN.
MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Executive Order: N/A
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 562236
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONCLUSION OF SECOND CONFERENCE OF ARAB MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY: FOCUS ON EC TRADE AND TEXTILES
TAGS: EIND, ETRD, EPAP, ECEM, XF, TS, EC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4fb13b18-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009